

AMENDMENT AND STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE
U.S. Appln. No. 10/773,294

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-7. (canceled).

8. (original): A process for producing a phenol novolak resin, comprising the steps of:

- (a) subjecting a phenol to a polycondensation reaction in the presence of an acid catalyst;
- (b) removing water from a reaction system;
- (c) decomposing, in the presence of an acid catalyst, the polycondensation product obtained in the step (a); and
- (d) subjecting the resulting product to a polycondensation reaction with an aldehyde or a ketone.

9-13. (canceled).